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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/973,199	10/10/2001	Bangalore Eahwar Amita Rani	056859-0131	4508

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FOLEY AND LARDNER
SUITE 500
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER	
HUYNH, PHUONG N	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
1644	

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/973,199	RANI ET AL.	
	Examin r	Art Unit	
	Phuong Huynh	1644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *Three* MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *04 August 2003* .

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,2 and 5-15* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-2, and 5-15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) *1/28/03* .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-2, and 5-15 are pending.

2. In view of the amendment filed 8/4/03, the following objections and rejections remain.

3. Claim 1 stands objected to because "**trichlorophoxyacetic** acid" in part (c) is misspelled. It should have been trichloroph**en**oxyacetic acid.

4. Claim 6 stands objected to because of the typographical error "0° Cl". It should have been "0° C".

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office Action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless:
>
> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering Patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 1-2, and 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 5,753,228 (May 1998, PTO 892) or US Pat No 4,357,272 (Nov 1982, PTO 892) each in view of US Pat No 5,688,682 (Nov 1997; PTO 892) and Beasley *et al* (Food and Agricultural Immunology 12: 303-215, Sept 2000, PTO 892).

The '228 patent teaches a process for the production of egg yolk antibodies binding to any parasitic antigen wherein the reference method comprises the steps of selecting suitable

poultry bird such as hens or chicken (See column 5, lines 6-9, in particular), immunizing the poultry birds such as the chicken with known complete adjuvant such as Freund's complete adjuvant containing heated killed and dried 1 mg/ml of M tuberculosis (See column 5, lines 13-21, Example 1, in particular). The '228 patent teaches that the adjuvant enhances the antibody responsiveness to the immunogen (See column 5, lines 13-18, in particular). The '228 patent teaches the bird such as leghorn hens, 21 weeks old are immunized with immunogen such as C parvum in Freund's complete adjuvant and booster shots are given at intervals of five weeks (See column 8, lines 26-33, in particular). The reference method wherein the Eggs are collected, stored at 4 °C until processed. The '228 patent teaches that the advantages of antibodies from egg yolks of hyperimmunized hens are: it provides a continuous source of large quantities of uniform antibodies which can be easily collected and stored (column 1, lines 54-59, in particular) and whole chicken serum is also remarkably resistant to temperature and acidity (See column 5, line 49-51, in particular).

The '272 patent teaches a process for the production of egg yolk antibodies binding to any antigen wherein the reference method comprises the steps of selecting suitable poultry bird such as Leghorn chicken (See column 6, Example 1, Hens, in particular), immunizing the poultry birds such as the chicken with any antigen in the range of 1 to 5 mg/ml intramuscularly in known incomplete adjuvant (See column 6, lines Immunization, lines 40-55, in particular). The '272 patent teaches the concentration of antigen used is not critical and varied from one antigen to another, but is generally in the range of 1 to 5 mg/ml. After the initial injection, the hens are immunized with additional injections (booster shot) at weekly intervals until the state of hyperimmunization is reached. The hyperimmunized eggs are collected and stores at 4 °C until use and this continuous over a period of 9 months (See column 6, lines 47-54, in particular). The '272 patent further teaches that if the antigen has low molecular weight (non-immunogenic), the immunogenicity of antigen can be enhance by cross-linking with carbodiimines (see column 5, lines 19-31, in particular). The '272 patent teaches that the antibody IgY titer produced ranges from 128 to 512 which is within the claimed range of 165-225 (see column 8, lines 6-10, in particular). The reference production of antibody is detectable 10 days after initial immunization and continued for 4 months (See column 7, lines 67 bridging column 8, lines 1-4, in particular). The '272 patent teaches the advantages of producing egg yolk antibodies are that it is comparatively easy to raise and keep chickens under conditions where they will produce antibody

against the antigen desired and the antibody produced persists over such long periods such as the entire laying period (see column 4, lines 45-50, in particular).

The claimed invention in claim 1 differs from the teachings of the reference only that the process wherein the bird is immunized with 1000 μg conjugate 2,4,5 trichlorphenoxyacetic acid β-alanine mixed in 0.85 ml paraffin and 0.15 ml mannide monooleate in breast muscle, and the booster shots are given at a dose of 500 μg conjugate 2,4,5 trichlorphenoxyacetic acid β-alanine at the intervals of two, three five weeks as long as the bird lays eggs.

The claimed invention in claim 2 differs from the teachings of the references only that the process for the production of egg yolk antibodies wherein the desired hapten-protein conjugates having the binding properties of Hexachlorohexane.

The '682 patent teaches various adjuvant such as known complete adjuvant for vaccine Emulsigen, which is a paraffin oil in water emulsion that can be used in food animal and Freund's Incomplete adjuvant which is 15 percent (0.15 ml) by weight mannide monooleate and 85% (0.85 ml) paraffin oil (See column 4, lines 24-31, in particular). The reference adjuvants are useful for slowly releasing the vaccine into the animal and in potentiating the immune response (See column 4, lines 31-32, in particular).

Beasley *et al* teach a method of making polyclonal antibody that binds to various pesticides such as Hexachlorohexane (HCH) by immunizing the rabbit with 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) conjugated to a β-alanine where the reference antibody having the binding property to Hexachlorohexane (HCH) (See page 207, Antibody production, in particular). Beasley et al further teach a method of making hapten conjugate to small molecule organo chlorine pesticide such as herbicide 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) which conjugated to a β-alanine spacer arm by hydroxysuccinimide (See page 205, Materials and Methods, second full paragraph, page 206, structure Ib, in particular). The reference process of making conjugate hapten 2, 4,5-Trichloro phenoxy acetic acid (TCB) hapten binding to hexachloro hexane involves the steps of: (a) adding β-alanine spacer arm to 2.55 g of 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) in 5.95 ml thionyl chloride (50 mmol), (b) refluxing for 1 hour and removing unreacted thionyl chloride by evaporation; (c) stirring the product with β-alanine (9 mmol, 0.66g in 7.4 ml of 1M OH) at 0°C; (d) then warming the product over 16 hours at room temperature; (e) isolating the resulting acid by acidification; (f) partitioning the into ethyl acetate; (g) washing with water and brine and giving a yield of 0.5g or 16% of crude product hapten containing 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) (See page 205, second full

paragraph, in particular). Beasley et al teach 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) is slightly more sensitive than other Hapten protein conjugate such as 1,2,4-TCB (See page 209, line 1, in particular).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the immunogen as taught by the '228 patent or the antigen as taught by the '272 patent for the immunogen such as 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) as taught by Beasley *et al* in adjuvant such as 15 percent (0.15 ml) by weight mannide monooleate and 85% (0.85 ml) paraffin oil as taught by the '682 patent for a process of making any egg yolk antibodies that bind to small molecule organo chlorine pesticide such as Hexachlorohexane as taught by the '228 patent, the 682 patent and Beasley *et al.* From the combined teachings of the references, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success in producing the claimed invention.

One having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because the '228 patent teaches that the advantages of antibodies from egg yolks of hyperimmunized hens because it provides a continuous source of large quantities of uniform antibodies which can be easily collected and stored (column 1, lines 54-59, in particular) and whole chicken serum is also remarkably resistant to temperature and acidity (See column 5, line 49-51, in particular). The '272 patent teaches the advantages of producing egg yolk antibodies are that it is comparatively easy to raise and keep chickens under conditions where they will produce antibody against the antigen desired and the antibody produced persists over such long periods such as the entire laying period (see column 4, lines 45-50, in particular). The Beasley et al teach 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) is useful for making antibody that binds to Hexachlorohexane (HCH) and 2,4,5-T is slightly more sensitive than other Hapten protein conjugate such as 1,2,4-TCB (See page 209, line 1, in particular). The '682 patent teaches that adjuvant is useful for slowly releasing the vaccine into the animal and in potentiating the immune response (See column 4, lines 31-32, in particular). The booster shots of immunizing the bird again and again at various intervals such as two, three or five weeks as long as the bird lay eggs is within the purview of one skill in the art at the time the invention was made because the '228 patent and the '272 patent teach booster shots maintain hyperimmunized antibody producing state and enhance the titer of the antibody. The recitation of collecting the eggs daily and stored at 40 °C until use is within the purview of one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because it is routine and customary to store away the collected egg at room temperature or

refrigerated at 4°C until use. Claim 14 is included in this rejection because the sensitivity of the egg yolk antibody (polyclonal) is an inherent property of the antibody and would expect to be equally sensitive to the polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies produced by mammals because they are immunized with the same immunogen.

Applicants' arguments filed 8/4/03 have been fully considered but are not found persuasive.

Applicants' position is that (1) the two primary references '228 patent and the '272 patent teach immunizing hens with peptide molecule, not small organic molecules pesticides. (2) None of the examples of these references would provide one of skill in the art with a reasonable expectation of success of the present invention. None of these references would provide one with motivation to conjugate a protein to a small molecule prior to administration. (3) The two secondary references such as the '682 patent and the Beasley article do not remedy the deficiencies of the two main references. The '682 patent relates to the production of bacterial vaccines against *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*. Vaccine preparation and antibody harvesting are two distinct fields of none-analogous art. One of skill in the art would not read the '682 patent and be motivated to arrive at the present invention nor have a reasonable expectation of success. The Beasley article relates to an antigen that is conjugated to ovalbumin and keyhole limpet heaemocyanin for raising antibodies for an immunoassay. The McAdam article does not cure the deficiencies of the other cited references. McAdam is merely related to the chemical coupling of the organophosphorous pesticide fenitrothion. Deignan is comparative analysis of methods of purification of egg yolk immunoglobulin and Akita relates to purification of egg yolk from hens immunized with an enterotoxigenic *E coli*. Neither MaCadam, Deignan, Akita nor Hatta would motivate one of skill in the art to arrive at the present invention which relates to the production of egg yolk antibodies that bind to small molecule organochlorine pesticides.

However, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. In re Keller , 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); In re Merck & Co., Inc. , 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). See MPEP 2145. If the primary references such as the '228 patent and the '272 patent teach immunizing hens with small organic molecules pesticides instead of peptide molecule, it would have been a rejection under 35 USC 102 (b).

As to the teaching of small organic molecule, Beasley *et al* teach a method of making polyclonal antibody that binds to various pesticides such as Hexachlorohexane (HCH) by

immunizing the rabbit with 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) conjugated to a β-alanine. Further, Beasley et al teach small organic molecule such as 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) is conjugated to a hapten such as β-alanine. The motivation to conjugate a hapten to a small molecule prior to administration is evidence in the teachings of Beasley et al since small organic molecules are not immunogenic (See page 205, Materials and Methods, second full paragraph, page 206, structure Ib, in particular). Likewise, McAdam *et al* teach a method of conjugating hapten protein such as KLH, HRP or Ovalbumin (OA) to small organic molecule such as ogranophosphate Fenitrothion to make it more immunogenic for antibody production (See page 1467, column 1, Coupling of Activated Feitrothion Succinimide Esters to carrier proteins, column 2, polyclonal and monoclonal antibody production, in particular).

In contrast to applicant's assertions that there is no motivation to combined, the motivation to combine can arise from the expectation that the prior art elements will perform their expected functions to achieve their expected results when combine for their common known purpose such as making antibody that would bind to small organo chlorine pesticide 2, 4, 5 trichlorophenoxyacetic acid, Section MPEP 2144.07. The process of making egg yolk antibodies that bind to any antigen is evidence in the teachings of the '228 patent, the '272 patent, or Akita *et al.* The '228 patent teaches that the advantages of antibodies from egg yolks of hyperimmunized hens because it provides a continuous source of large quantities of uniform antibodies which can be easily collected and stored (column 1, lines 54-59, in particular) and whole chicken serum is also remarkably resistant to temperature and acidity (See column 5, line 49-51, in particular). The '272 patent teaches the advantages of producing egg yolk antibodies are that it is comparatively easy to raise and keep chickens under conditions where they will produce antibody against the antigen desired and the antibody produced persists over such long periods such as the entire laying period (see column 4, lines 45-50, in particular). Akita *et al* teach that the advantage of lowering the pH to 5.0 of the water soluble protein fraction (WSF) further removes the lipid from said WSF and the highest yield of IgY such as 92.7 to 94.2 % is obtained between 5.0 to 5.2, respectively (See Table 1, page 631, in particular).

8. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 5,753,228 (May 1998, PTO 892) or US Pat No 4,357,272 (Nov 1982, PTO 892) each in view of US Pat No 5,688,682 (Nov 1997; PTO 892) and Beasley *et al* (Food and Agricultural Immunology 12: 303-

215, Sept 2000; PTO 892) as applied to claims 1-2 and 11-15 mentioned above and further in view of McAdam et al (J Agric Food Chem 40: 1466-70, 1992; PTO 892).

The teachings of the '228 patent, the '272 patent, the '682 patent and Beasley *et al* have been discussed supra. Beasley et al further teach a method of making hapten conjugate to small molecule organo chlorine pesticide such as herbicide 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) which conjugated to a β-alanine spacer arm by hydroxysuccinimide (See page 205, Materials and Methods, second full paragraph, page 206, structure Ib, in particular). The reference process of making conjugate hapten 2, 4,5-Trichloro phenoxy acetic acid (TCB) hapten binding to hexachloro hexane involves the steps of: (a) adding β-alanine spacer arm to 2.55 g of 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) in 5.95 ml thionyl chloride (50 mmol), (b) refluxing for 1 hour and removing unreacted thionyl chloride by evaporation; (c) stirring the product with β-alanine (9 mmol, 0.66g in 7.4 ml of 1M OH) at 0°C; (d) then warming the product over 16 hours at room temperature; (e) isolating the resulting acid by acidification; (f) partitioning the into ethyl acetate; (g) washing with water and brine and giving a yield of 0.5g or 16% of crude product hapten containing 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) (See page 205, second full paragraph, in particular). Beasley et al teach the impurity such as un-react hapten can be isolate by chromatography on silica gel (see page 205, last paragraph, in particular) using various solvents such as chloroform (see page 205, last paragraph) and methanol of choice (See page 211, first paragraph, in particular). The ratio of chloroform and methanol such as 85:15 as eluent for thin layer chromatography is within the purview of one skill in the art at the time the invention was made because it is a routine optimization to separate the product from the contaminant. The spraying with 2% o-tolidine in acetone for thin layer chromatography is within the purview of one skill in the art at the time the invention was made because it is a routine visualization in thin layer chromatography analysis. The Rf value of 0.45 and the melting rang of 169-70°C are inherent properties of the reference compound. Beasley et al further teach synthesizing NHS ester of 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T)-β-alaline using the same procedure as Triclopyr by dissolving in dichloromethane, adding N-hydroxysuccinimide and dicyclohexycarbodiimide as a coupling agent and stirring at room temperature and isolating the product using silica (See page 205, last paragraph, in particular). Beasley et al teach the most effective solvent for hexachlorocyclexane are methanol, acetone and hexane:acetone (4:1) (See page 210, Detection of Residues in Soil and Water, in particular).

The claimed invention in claim 5 differs from the teachings of the references only that the process for the production of egg yolk antibodies wherein the production of conjugate hapten 2,4,5-Trichloro phenoxy acetic acid β-alanine (TCB) hapten binding to Hexachloro hexane involves the steps of adding dimethylaminopyridine as a catalyst; stirring the mixture overnight and the temperature slowly raised to the room temperature; filtering and evaporing acetone and (r) separating the active ester as a colorless solid.

McAdam *et al* teach three approaches to hapten-protein conjugation such as coupling of β-alanine to organophosphate by dissolving β-alanine in dichloromethane, adding dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) and dimethylaminopyridine as a catalyst, stirring the mixture at room temperature such as 20°C, filtering, drying and separating the active ester (See page 1467, column 1, first paragraph, in particular). McAdam *et al* further teach a method of coupling of activated ester such as Fenitrothion to hapten such as KLH, HRP or Ovalbumin (OA) using N-hydroxysuccinimide as a coupling agent for making the reference ogranophosphate Fenitrothion more immunogenic for antibody production (See page 1467, column 1, Coupling of Activated Feitrothion Succinimide Esters to carrier proteins, column 2, polyclonal and monoclonal antibody production, in particular). McAdam *et al* teach that hapten conjugates coupled through the spacer-arm such as alanine yield the most specific monoclonal and polyclonal antibody and higher affinity (See page abstract, page 1468 column 2, last paragraph, in particular). McAdam *et al* teach Monoclonal antibodies offer the advantage of potential scale up of production of any well defined antibody and polyclonal antibodies prepared the same way used in the same assay format is only slightly less sensitive (See page 1469, column 2, General Discussion, in particular).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to produce any egg yolk antibodies (polyclonal antibodies) binding to small molecule organochlorine pesticides as taught by the '228 patent, the '272 patent, the '682 patent and Beasley *et al* by synthesizing the active ester of any hapten-beta alanine by dissolving in dichloromethane, coupling to beta-alanine using N-hydroxysuccinimide and dicyclohexylcarbodiimide as coupling agents as taught by Beasley *et al* and McAdam *et al* in the present of dimethylaminopyridine as a catalyst as taught by McAdam *et al*. From the combined teachings of the references, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success in producing the claimed invention.

One having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because McAdam *et al* teach that hapten conjugates coupled through the spacer-arm such as alanine yield

the most specific monoclonal and polyclonal antibody and higher affinity (See page abstract, page 1468 column 2, last paragraph, in particular). McAdam *et al* teach Monoclonal antibodies offer the advantage of potential scale up of production of any well defined antibody and polyclonal antibodies prepared the same way used in the same assay format is only slightly less sensitive (See page 1469, column 2, General Discussion, in particular). The recitation of adding dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO) drop wise to the mixture until the hapten dissolved is within the purview of one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because polar solvent such as DMSO dissolves similar polar compound (like dissolves like) since Beasley et al teach the most effective solvent for hexachlorocyclexane are methanol, acetone and hexane:acetone (4:1) (See page 210, Detection of Residues in Soil and Water, in particular). The recitation of melting range of 102-104 °C of 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic-beta alanine is inherent property of the compound 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic-beta alanine.

Applicants' arguments filed 8/4/03 have been fully considered but are not found persuasive.

Applicants' position is that (1) the two primary references '228 patent and the '272 patent teach immunizing hens with peptide molecule, not small organic molecules pesticides. (2) None of the examples of these references would provide one of skill in the art with a reasonable expectation of success of the present invention. None of these references would provide one with motivation to conjugate a protein to a small molecule prior to administration. (3) The two secondary references such as the '682 patent and the Beasley article do not remedy the deficiencies of the two main references. The '682 patent relates to the production of bacterial vaccines against *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*. Vaccine preparation and antibody harvesting are two distinct fields of none-analogous art. One of skill in the art would not read the '682 patent and be motivated to arrive at the present invention nor have a reasonable expectation of success. The Beasley article relates to an antigen that is conjugated to ovalbumin and keyhole limpet heaemocyanin for raising antibodies for an immunoassay. The McAdam article does not cure the deficiencies of the other cited references. McAdam is merely related to the chemical coupling of the organophosphorous pesticide fenitrothion. Deignan is comparative analysis of methods of purification of egg yolk immunoglobulin and Akita relates to purification of egg yolk from hens immunized with an enterotoxigenic *E coli*. Neither MaCadam, Deignan, Akita nor Hatta would motivate one of skill in the art to arrive at the present invention which relates to the production of egg yolk antibodies that bind to small molecule organochlorine pesticides.

Applicants' arguments filed 8/4/03 have been fully considered but are not found persuasive.

Applicants' position is that (1) the two primary references '228 patent and the '272 patent teach immunizing hens with peptide molecule, not small organic molecules pesticides. (2) None of the examples of these references would provide one of skill in the art with a reasonable expectation of success of the present invention. None of these references would provide one with motivation to conjugate a protein to a small molecule prior to administration. (3) The two secondary references such as the '682 patent and the Beasley article do not remedy the deficiencies of the two main references. The '682 patent relates to the production of bacterial vaccines against *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*. Vaccine preparation and antibody harvesting are two distinct fields of none-analogous art. One of skill in the art would not read the '682 patent and be motivated to arrive at the present invention nor have a reasonable expectation of success. The Beasley article relates to an antigen that is conjugated to ovalbumin and keyhole limpet heaemocyanin for raising antibodies for an immunoassay. The McAdam article does not cure the deficiencies of the other cited references. McAdam is merely related to the chemical coupling of the organophosphorous pesticide fenitrothion. Deignan is comparative analysis of methods of purification of egg yolk immunoglobulin and Akita relates to purification of egg yolk from hens immunized with an enterotoxigenic *E coli*. Neither MaCadam, Deignan, Akita nor Hatta would motivate one of skill in the art to arrive at the present invention which relates to the production of egg yolk antibodies that bind to small molecule organochlorine pesticides.

However, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. In re Keller , 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); In re Merck & Co., Inc. , 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). See MPEP 2145. If the primary references such as the '228 patent and the '272 patent teach immunizing hens with small organic molecules pesticides instead of peptide molecule, it would have been a rejection under 35 USC 102 (b).

As to the teaching of small organic molecule, Beasley *et al* teach a method of making polyclonal antibody that binds to various pesticides such as Hexachlorohexane (HCH) by immunizing the rabbit with 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) conjugated to a β-alanine. Further, Beasley et al teach small organic molecule such as 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) is conjugated to a hapten such as β-alanine. The motivation to conjugate a hapten to a small molecule prior to administration is evidence in the teachings of Beasley et al since small

organic molecules are not immunogenic (See page 205, Materials and Methods, second full paragraph, page 206, structure Ib, in particular). Likewise, McAdam *et al* teach a method of conjugating hapten protein such as KLH, HRP or Ovalbumin (OA) to small organic molecule such as ogranophosphate Fenitrothion to make it more immunogenic for antibody production (See page 1467, column 1, Coupling of Activated Feitrothion Succinimide Esters to carrier proteins, column 2, polyclonal and monoclonal antibody production, in particular).

In contrast to applicant's assertions that there is no motivation to combined, the motivation to combine can arise from the expectation that the prior art elements will perform their expected functions to achieve their expected results when combine for their common known purpose such as making antibody that would bind to small organo chlorine pesticide 2, 4, 5 trichlorophenoxyacetic acid, Section MPEP 2144.07. The process of making egg yolk antibodies that bind to any antigen is evidence in the teachings of the '228 patent, the '272 patent, or Akita *et al*. The '228 patent teaches that the advantages of antibodies from egg yolks of hyperimmunized hens because it provides a continuous source of large quantities of uniform antibodies which can be easily collected and stored (column 1, lines 54-59, in particular) and whole chicken serum is also remarkably resistant to temperature and acidity (See column 5, line 49-51, in particular). The '272 patent teaches the advantages of producing egg yolk antibodies are that it is comparatively easy to raise and keep chickens under conditions where they will produce antibody against the antigen desired and the antibody produced persists over such long periods such as the entire laying period (see column 4, lines 45-50, in particular). Akita *et al* teach that the advantage of lowering the pH to 5.0 of the water soluble protein fraction (WSF) further removes the lipid from said WSF and the highest yield of IgY such as 92.7 to 94.2 % is obtained between 5.0 to 5.2, respectively (See Table 1, page 631, in particular).

9. Claims 6 and 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 5,753,228 (May 1998, PTO 892) or US Pat No 4,357,272 (Nov 1982, PTO 892) each in view of US Pat No 5,688,682 (Nov 1997; PTO 892) and Beasley *et al* (Food and Agricultural Immunology 12: 303-215, Sept 2000; PTO 892) as applied to claims 1-2 and 11-15 mentioned above and further in view of Deignan *et al* (Food and Agricultural Immunology 12: 77-85, March 2000; PTO 892) and Akita *et al* (J of Food Science 57(3): 629-634, 1992; PTO 892).

The teachings of the '228 patent, the '272 patent, the '682 patent and Beasley *et al* have been discussed supra.

The claimed invention in claim 6 differs from the teachings of the references only that the process for the production of egg yolk antibodies wherein harvesting of antibodies as defined in step (g) of claim 1 (a) obtained egg yolk without rupturing the yolk; (b) adding 100 ml of Tris buffer for every 10 ml of yolk; (c) removing the precipitate by centrifugation; (d) adding to the supernatant the precipitate solution of magnesium chloride and phosphotungstic acid for centrifuging; (e) discarding the pellet; (f) adding to the supernatant a water solution protein fraction of 12% polyethylene glycol; (g) incubating for 10 minutes and then centrifuging again; (h) precipitating out the antibody; (i) adding 10 ml of 10mM phosphate buffer to dissolve the precipitate; (j) cooling the antibody solution to 0°C; (k) adding 10 ml of precooled ethanol; (l) centrifuging the solution at 4°C and dissolving the sediment in 10 mM phosphate buffer; and (m) dialyzing against phosphate buffer for 24 hour at 4°C to obtain the yield of antibodies.

The claimed invention in claim 8 differs from the teachings of the references only that the process for the production of egg yolk antibodies wherein the lipid from egg yolk is precipitated out twice using the precipitating solution of phosphotungstic acid and magnesium chloride and centrifuged obtaining the antibody yield up to 75% from supernatant.

The claimed invention in claim 9 differs from the teachings of the references only that the process for the production of egg yolk antibodies wherein the pH of the water soluble protein fraction obtained after the removal of the lipids is adjusted to pH 5.0 to further precipitate out the antibodies for obtaining a yield of 80-90%.

Deignan *et al* teach a comparative analysis of five published methods of purifying egg yolk immunoglobulin such as lipid removal by freeze and thaw at neutral pH of Jensenius et al (1981), precipitation with 3.5% polyethylene glycol (PEG) of Polson and von Wechmar (1980), precipitation with dextran sulphate and calcium chloride of Jensenius et al (1981), precipitation of with phosphotungstic acid and magnesium chloride of Vieria et al (1984) (See entire document, Lipid removal page 78 bridging page 79, in particular) and immunoglobulin precipitation by precipitation using 12% PEG of Polson & von Wedmar, 1980; Polson et al 1985) (See page 80, in particular). Deignan *et al* teach obtaining egg yolk without rupturing the yolk (page 78, egg yolk separation, in particular), follows by lipid removal using the method of Vieira et al by adding 100 ml of Tris buffer for every 10 ml of yolk; (c) removing the precipitate by centrifugation; (d) adding to the supernatant the precipitate solution of magnesium chloride and phosphotungstic acid for centrifuging; (e) discarding the pellet (See page 79, Precipitation with phosphotungstic acid and magnesium chloride, in particular), follows by immunogloblin precipitation using the

method of Polson & von Wedmar et al by adding to the supernatant a water solution protein fraction of 12% polyethylene glycol; (g) incubating for 10 minutes and then centrifuging again; (h) precipitating out the antibody; (i) adding 5 ml of 10mM phosphate buffer to dissolve the precipitate; (j) cooling the antibody solution to 0°C; (k) adding 5 ml of precooled ethanol; (l) centrifuging the solution at 4°C and dissolving the sediment in 5ml of phosphate buffer; and (m) dialyzing against phosphate buffer for 24 hour at 4°C to obtain the yield of antibodies. Deignan *et al* teach that the advantage of removal of lipid from native egg yolk using a combination of *polyanions and cations such as phosphotungstic acid and magnesium chloride it that it recovered* the highest yield of 21.6 mg (range of 20.4-33.0) of protein per ml of egg yolk (See Figure 1, page 81, in particular) and the IgY purity as estimated by densitometry was 69.8%. Following lipid removal, immunoglobulin precipitation using 12% PEG gives the highest yield of 8.62 mg (range 8.39 to 8.83) or IgY per ml of egg yolk and this method was deemed the best (See page 82, Ig precipitation, Fig 2, page 82, Discussion, in particular).

Akita *et al* teach a process of purifying egg antibodies (IgY) by lowering the pH to 5.0 of the water soluble protein fraction (WSF) to further remove the lipid from said WSF and the highest yield of IgY such as 92.7 to 94.2 % is obtained between 5.0 to 5.2, respectively (See Table 1, page 631, in particular).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to harvest the egg yolk antibodies that bind to small molecule organo chlorine pesticides as taught by the '228 patent, the '272 patent, the '682 patent and Beasley *et al* using the solution of phosphotungstic acid and magnesium chloride follows by Ig precipitation using 12% PEG as taught by the Deignan *et al* and further remove the lipid from said WSF by lowering the pH to 5.0 as taught by Akita *et al*. From the combined teachings of the references, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success in producing the claimed invention.

One having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because Deignan *et al* teach that the advantage of removal of lipid from native egg yolk using a combination of polyanions and cations such as phosphotungstic acid and magnesium chloride is that it recovered the highest yield of 21.6 mg (range of 20.4-33.0) of protein per ml of egg yolk (See Figure 1, page 81, in particular) and the IgY purity as estimated by densitometry was 69.8%. Following lipid removal, immunoglobulin precipitation using 12% PEG gives the highest yield of 8.62 mg (range 8.39 to 8.83) or IgY per ml of egg yolk and this method is deemed the best (See

page 82, Ig precipitation, Fig 2, page 82, Discussion, in particular). The recitation of precipitated out lipid from egg yolk "twice" using the precipitating solution of phosphotungstic acid and magnesium chloride is within the purview of one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because it is an obvious variation of the teaching of Deignan *et al* who teaches that the advantage of removal of lipid from native egg yolk using a combination of polyanions and cations such as phosphotungstic acid and magnesium chloride would give the IgY purity as estimated by densitometry was 69.8%, which is within the limit of "up to" 75%". Akita *et al* teach that the advantage of lowering the pH to 5.0 of the water soluble protein fraction (WSF) further removes the lipid from said WSF and the highest yield of IgY such as 92.7 to 94.2 % is obtained between 5.0 to 5.2, respectively (See Table 1, page 631, in particular).

Applicants' arguments filed 8/4/03 have been fully considered but are not found persuasive.

Applicants' position is that (1) the two primary references '228 patent and the '272 patent teach immunizing hens with peptide molecule, not small organic molecules pesticides. (2) None of the examples of these references would provide one of skill in the art with a reasonable expectation of success of the present invention. None of these references would provide one with motivation to conjugate a protein to a small molecule prior to administration. (3) The two secondary references such as the '682 patent and the Beasley article do not remedy the deficiencies of the two main references. The '682 patent relates to the production of bacterial vaccines against *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*. Vaccine preparation and antibody harvesting are two distinct fields of none-analogous art. One of skill in the art would not read the '682 patent and be motivated to arrive at the present invention nor have a reasonable expectation of success. The Beasley article relates to an antigen that is conjugated to ovalbumin and keyhole limpet heaemocyanin for raising antibodies for an immunoassay. The McAdam article does not cure the deficiencies of the other cited references. McAdam is merely related to the chemical coupling of the organophosphorous pesticide fenitrothion. Deignan is comparative analysis of methods of purification of egg yolk immunoglobulin and Akita relates to purification of egg yolk from hens immunized with an enterotoxigenic *E coli*. Neither MaCadam, Deignan, Akita nor Hatta would motivate one of skill in the art to arrive at the present invention which relates to the *production of egg yolk antibodies that bind to small molecule organochlorine pesticides.*

However, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. In re Keller , 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ

871 (CCPA 1981); In re Merck & Co., Inc., 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). See MPEP 2145. If the primary references such as the '228 patent and the '272 patent teach immunizing hens with small organic molecules pesticides instead of peptide molecule, it would have been a rejection under 35 USC 102 (b). As to the teaching of small organic molecule, Beasley *et al* teach a method of making polyclonal antibody that binds to various pesticides such as Hexachlorohexane (HCH) by immunizing the rabbit with 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) conjugated to a β-alanine. Further, Beasley et al teach small organic molecule such as 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) conjugated to a hapten such as β-alanine. The motivation to conjugate a hapten to a small molecule prior to administration is evidence in the teachings of Beasley et al since small organic molecules are not immunogenic (See page 205, Materials and Methods, second full paragraph, page 206, structure Ib, in particular). Likewise, McAdam *et al* teach a method of conjugating hapten protein such as KLH, HRP or Ovalbumin (OA) to small organic molecule such as ogranophosphate Fenitrothion to make it more immunogenic for antibody production (See page 1467, column 1, Coupling of Activated Feitrothion Succinimide Esters to carrier proteins, column 2, polyclonal and monoclonal antibody production, in particular). In contrast to applicant's assertions that there is no motivation to combined, the motivation to combine can arise from the expectation that the prior art elements will perform their expected functions to achieve their expected results when combine for their common known purpose such as making antibody that would bind to small organo chlorine pesticide 2, 4, 5 trichlorophenoxyacetic acid, Section MPEP 2144.07. The process of making egg yolk antibodies that bind to any antigen is evidence in the teachings of the '228 patent, the '272 patent, or Akita *et al.* The '228 patent teaches that the advantages of antibodies from egg yolks of hyperimmunized hens because it provides a continuous source of large quantities of uniform antibodies which can be easily collected and stored (column 1, lines 54-59, in particular) and whole chicken serum is also remarkably resistant to temperature and acidity (See column 5, line 49-51, in particular). The '272 patent teaches the advantages of producing egg yolk antibodies are that it is comparatively easy to raise and keep chickens under conditions where they will produce antibody against the antigen desired and the antibody produced persists over such long periods such as the entire laying period (see column 4, lines 45-50, in particular). Akita *et al* teach that the advantage of lowering the pH to 5.0 of the water soluble protein fraction (WSF) further removes the lipid from said WSF and the highest yield of IgY such as 92.7 to 94.2 % is obtained between 5.0 to 5.2, respectively (See Table 1, page 631, in particular).

10. Claims 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 5,753,228 (May 1998, PTO 892) or US Pat No 4,357,272 (Nov 1982, PTO 892) each in view of US Pat No 5,688,682 (Nov 1997; PTO 892) and Beasley *et al* (Food and Agricultural Immunology 12: 303-215, Sept 2000; PTO 892) as applied to claims 1-2 and 11-15 mentioned above and further in view of Akita *et al* (J of Immunological Methods 160: 207-214, 1993; PTO 892) or Hatta *et al* (Agric Biol Chem 54(10): 2531-2535, 1990; PTO 892).

The teachings of the '228 patent, the '272 patent, the '682 patent and Beasley *et al* have been discussed supra.

The claimed invention in claim 7 differs from the teachings of the references only that the process for the production of egg yolk antibodies wherein the harvesting of antibodies can also be conducted as follows: (a) obtaining the egg yolk from the eggshell without rupturing the yolk membrane; (b) adding for every 10 ml of yolk, 10 ml of distilled water; (c) adding about 0.15% of kappa-carrageenan and left to stir for 30 minutes at room temperature; (d) filtering and centrifuging the solution for 15 minutes; (e) passing through the DEAE-Sephacel column prepared with 20 mM phosphate buffer at pH 8.0; (f) eluting with 0.2 M phosphate buffer pH 8.0; (g) collecting the eluate and the absorbance read at 280 nm; and (h) pooling and storing the peak fractions containing the antibody at 4°C.

The claimed invention in claim 8 differs from the teachings of the references only that the process for the production of egg yolk antibodies wherein the yield of antibody is to the extent of 73%.

Akita *et al* teach a process of isolating egg yolk immunoglobulin such as obtaining egg yolk from the egg shell without rupturing the yolk membrane from immunized hens; adding about 0.15% (w/v) of carrageenan (120 mg in 80 ml distilled water, which equal to 0.15%) and mixing and stirring for 15 minutes at room temperature which is about 20° C, centrifuging it to separate the water-soluble protein faction from the yolk lipoproteins (see page 210, right column, Fig 4, in particular). Akita *et al* teach the reference method yield 89% or 7.3 mg/ml of egg yolk (See caption in Figure 4, in particular). Akita *et al* teach the IgY in water-soluble protein fraction is purified by gel filtration such as passing through Sephadex G-25 column with the appropriate buffer and collecting the eluate by monitoring the absorbance at 280 nm (See page 210, Gel filtration, in particular). Akita *et al* further teach the hyperimmunized eggs are collected and store at 4°C until use (See page 208, column 2, immunization, in particular).

Hatta *et al* teach a process of isolating egg yolk immunoglobulin, IgG, a livetin protein, using several natural gums such as carrageenan and xanthan gum) by (a) obtaining the egg yolk from the eggshell without rupturing the yolk membrane from immunized hens; (b) adding about 0.1% (w/v) of kappa carrageenan (60 mg of carrageenan in 40 ml of distilled water) to the egg yolk in order to separate the water-soluble protein faction from the yolk lipoproteins by centrifugation (See page 2534, Diagram 1, Table 1, in particular); filtering the water-soluble protein fraction through filter paper, and passing through the DEAE-Sephacel column prepared with 20 mM phosphate buffer at pH 8.0 (see page 2533, column 1, Purification of IgY from egg yolk, in particular); eluting the yolk antibodies with 0.2 M (200mM) phosphate buffer pH 8.0; collecting the peak fractions by monitoring at 280 nm (See page 2534, Diagram 1, Table 1, in particular). Hatta *et al* teach the purity of IgY obtained by the reference method was 98.3% with a yield of 73% (See page 2534, column 1, second full paragraph, in particular). Hatta *et al* teach natural gums such as kappa carrageenan are effective as precipitant of yolk lipoproteins and the gum has been used as a food ingredient, so that IgY prepared by this method should be suitable for oral administration (See page 2534, column 2, Discussion, in particular).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to harvest the egg yolk antibodies that bind to small molecule organo chlorine pesticides as taught by the '228 patent, the '272 patent the '682 patent and Beasley *et al* using the process of separating lipoprotein by carrageenan and gel filtration such as DEAE-Sephacel column chromatography as taught by Akita *et al* and Hatta *et al*. From the combined teachings of the references, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success in producing the claimed invention.

One having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because Akita et al teach that purification of IgY from egg yolk by carrageenan has no adverse effect on the immunoreactivities of IgY and the yield in terms of purity is 89% (See page 210, caption in Fig 4, abstract, in particular). Hatta *et al* teach natural gums such as kappa carrageenan are effective as precipitant of yolk lipoproteins and the gum has been used as a food ingredient, so that IgY prepared by this method should be suitable for oral administration (See page 2534, column 2, Discussion, in particular).

Applicants' arguments filed 8/4/03 have been fully considered but are not found persuasive.

Applicants' position is that (1) the two primary references '228 patent and the '272 patent teach immunizing hens with peptide molecule, not small organic molecules pesticides. (2) None of the examples of these references would provide one of skill in the art with a reasonable expectation of success of the present invention. None of these references would provide one with motivation to conjugate a protein to a small molecule prior to administration. (3) The two secondary references such as the '682 patent and the Beasley article do not remedy the deficiencies of the two main references. The '682 patent relates to the production of bacterial vaccines against *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*. Vaccine preparation and antibody harvesting are two distinct fields of none-analogous art. One of skill in the art would not read the '682 patent and be motivated to arrive at the present invention nor have a reasonable expectation of success. The Beasley article relates to an antigen that is conjugated to ovalbumin and keyhole limpet heaemocyanin for raising antibodies for an immunoassay. The McAdam article does not cure the deficiencies of the other cited references. McAdam is merely related to the chemical coupling of the organophosphorous pesticide fenitrothion. Deignan is comparative analysis of methods of purification of egg yolk immunoglobulin and Akita relates to purification of egg yolk from hens immunized with an enterotoxigenic *E coli*. Neither MaCadam, Deignan, Akita nor Hatta would motivate one of skill in the art to arrive at the present invention which relates to the production of egg yolk antibodies that bind to small molecule organochlorine pesticides.

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cure the deficiencies of the other cited references. McAdam is merely related to the chemical coupling of the organophosphorous pesticide fenitrothion. Deignan is comparative analysis of methods of purification of egg yolk immunoglobulin and Akita relates to purification of egg yolk from hens immunized with an enterotoxigenic *E coli*. Neither MaCadam, Deignan, Akita nor Hatta would motivate one of skill in the art to arrive at the present invention which relates to the production of egg yolk antibodies that bind to small molecule organochlorine pesticides.

However, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. In re Keller , 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); In re Merck & Co., Inc. , 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). See MPEP 2145. If the primary references such as the '228 patent and the '272 patent teach immunizing hens with small organic molecules pesticides instead of peptide molecule, it would have been a rejection under 35 USC 102 (b).

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In contrast to applicant's assertions that there is no motivation to combined, the motivation to combine can arise from the expectation that the prior art elements will perform their expected functions to achieve their expected results when combine for their common known purpose such as making antibody that would bind to small organo chlorine pesticide 2, 4, 5 trichlorophenoxyacetic acid, Section MPEP 2144.07. The process of making egg yolk antibodies that bind to any antigen is evidence in the teachings of the '228 patent, the '272 patent, or Akita *et al*. The '228 patent teaches that the advantages of antibodies from egg yolks of hyperimmunized hens because it provides a continuous source of large quantities of uniform

antibodies which can be easily collected and stored (column 1, lines 54-59, in particular) and whole chicken serum is also remarkably resistant to temperature and acidity (See column 5, line 49-51, in particular). The '272 patent teaches the advantages of producing egg yolk antibodies are that it is comparatively easy to raise and keep chickens under conditions where they will produce antibody against the antigen desired and the antibody produced persists over such long periods such as the entire laying period (see column 4, lines 45-50, in particular). Akita *et al* teach that the advantage of lowering the pH to 5.0 of the water soluble protein fraction (WSF) further removes the lipid from said WSF and the highest yield of IgY such as 92.7 to 94.2 % is obtained between 5.0 to 5.2, respectively (See Table 1, page 631, in particular).

11. No claim is allowed.

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for response to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the date of this action. In the event a first response is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event will the statutory period for response expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to "Neon" Phuong Huynh whose telephone number is (703) 308-4844. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 6:00 p.m. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (703) 308-3973. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

14. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technology Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform to the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Fax Center telephone number is (703) 305-7401.

Phuong N. Huynh, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1600
November 3, 2003

Christina Chan
CHRISTINA CHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600